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Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Payroll jobs and wages estimates, sourced from Single Touch Payroll (STP) data

Reference period Week ending 11 March 2023

Released 6/04/2023

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Key statistics

Between the weeks ending 11 February 2023 and 11 March 2023:

- Payroll jobs, up 0.6%
- Total wages paid, down 1.8%

Seasonality spotlight article

This release includes an [article \(/articles/spotlight-seasonality-payroll-jobs-and-wages-paid-2022-year-end\)](/articles/spotlight-seasonality-payroll-jobs-and-wages-paid-2022-year-end) with selected insights on seasonality in indexes of payroll jobs and total wages paid at the 2022 year-end.

Focus on monthly change

The focus in summary text now highlights monthly percentage change instead of fortnightly. Fortnightly percentage changes are still available within included tables.

Factors affecting interpretation

These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. Seasonality can affect the interpretation of change in payroll jobs and wages, particularly between sub-annual periods. While annual comparisons can assist in understanding underlying change, they are less useful when events such as public holidays or pandemic lockdowns don't occur in the same week in both years.

In addition, when comparing the change in payroll jobs and wages between any two periods, interpretation can be complicated by variations in their composition. Payroll job indexes are compiled from over 11 million jobs and variations in the types of jobs reported can result in compositional change (which is not quantified). For example, each payroll job in each week:

- is counted in the same way regardless of job status (full-time, part-time or casual), hence variations in demand for casual staff can influence week-on-week change.
- represents an individual in every paid job reported via STP, hence jobholders working multiple jobs are counted more than once. While multiple jobholders account for less than 10% of all payroll jobs, they can increase the rate of change seen week-to-week (in some industries) in circumstances where they are unable to work in any of their jobs (e.g. due to illness) and are not paid when absent.

Wages can be more heavily influenced by week-to-week change in composition, as the wages index reflects movements in aggregate wages and salaries paid (unlike the ABS Wage Price Index which presents changes in the price of labour unaffected by compositional shifts in the labour force, hours worked or employee characteristics). Variability in wages indexes in this release in any given week may be due to:

- changes in hours worked,
- the inclusion of cyclical payments such as bonuses, commissions or lump sum payment of leave loading,
- payment of penalty rates for public holidays (which may not fall on the same date each year), or
- the inclusion of irregular payments such as overtime, ad hoc or one-off payments relating to employee recognition or enterprise agreement sign-on.

Compositional change can also differ at the industry or state and territory level, particularly when there are localised labour market issues.

Alternative period comparisons

The combination of seasonal effects and differences in composition can increase the volatility of week-on-week or month-on-month changes in these estimates. For these reasons, the ABS recommends using comparisons of the current month to the same month in the previous year, or 3 months prior, to understand any trends in the payroll jobs and wages estimates presented. These comparisons will likely reduce the impact of seasonal factors and compositional change, making trends easier to identify.

Earnings guide

To learn more about the different labour measures available, their purpose and how to use them, see our [Earnings guide \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide).

Revisions

This release sees higher than usual revisions in November 2022, as the 16 week imputation retention threshold passes through this period. These revisions mostly reflect the removal of previously imputed records, with the receipt of more complete data. Users should exercise caution when referring to estimates around this period.

Additional adjustments to early 2020

The ABS has recently reviewed payroll jobs and total wages estimates in early 2020 and applied some additional adjustments, correcting previously untreated anomalies. These adjustments have affected a small number of indexes, resulting in small revisions in some indexes in the first half of 2020, and a change in level for some indexes in the later time series due to their implementation across the index base period (week ending 14 March 2020).

Change periods

This release presents percentage change between the weeks ending 11 March 2023 and:

- 25 February 2023, for fortnight
- 11 February 2023, for month
- 12 March 2023, for year

This differs for employment size estimates which are month lagged.

National

In the month to 11 March 2023:

- Payroll jobs increased by 0.6%, compared to an increase of 2.9% in the previous month
- Total wages paid decreased by 1.8%, compared to an increase of 5.3% in the previous month

Percentage change in payroll jobs and total wages

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
Payroll jobs	0.0	0.6	3.5
Total wages	-1.8	-1.8	7.2

Estimates of change throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded index values. They may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the rounded index values.

Payroll jobs and total wages index (a)(b)



a. Indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020.

b. Payroll jobs and wages data during June and July see a greater variation in business payroll reporting around the end of financial year. For more information, see [Variation in revisions in Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#data-variability-and-revisions\)](#).

State and territory

Payroll jobs

All geographical areas in this release represent the residential address of the jobholder.

In the month to 11 March 2023, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

- Northern Territory, up 2.3%
- South Australia, up 1.1%

Percentage change in payroll jobs, by state and territory

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
New South Wales	-0.2	0.2	3.0
Victoria	0.0	0.7	3.3
Queensland	0.1	0.7	4.1
South Australia	0.2	1.1	2.9
Western Australia	0.1	0.7	4.9
Tasmania	-0.4	-0.1	2.9
Northern Territory	1.0	2.3	5.4
Australian Capital Territory	0.3	0.8	3.3
Australia	0.0	0.6	3.5

Monthly percentage change in payroll jobs, by state and territory

Loading map...

Total wages

In the month to 11 March 2023, the largest changes in total wages paid were:

- Northern Territory, up 3.5%
- New South Wales, down 3.1%

Percentage change in total wages, by state and territory

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
New South Wales	-3.0	-3.1	6.3
Victoria	-2.7	-2.4	6.5
Queensland	-1.0	-0.9	8.9
South Australia	-0.6	-0.2	7.1
Western Australia	1.0	0.5	8.1
Tasmania	-1.6	-0.9	8.1
Northern Territory	1.8	3.5	9.7
Australian Capital Territory	-2.3	-1.6	5.6
Australia	-1.8	-1.8	7.2

Sub-state - payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by sub-state regions (Statistical Area 4 (SA4), Statistical Area 3 (SA3) and Greater Capital City Area (GCCSA) regions) are presented as index values in Table 5 of the Data downloads.

For more information on the geography used in this release, see the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#glossary\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#glossary).

Monthly percentage change in payroll jobs, by GCCSA regions

Loading map...

The ACT only has one GCCSA region for the entire Territory.

Sex and age group

In mid-March 2023, the proportion of jobholders with unknown sex has risen to 5.4%. These jobholders are not evenly distributed, hence this proportion differs across detailed indexes which include sex, and can affect comparisons over time.

Indexes of persons aged 15-19 years old by sex are affected by a higher proportion of records with unknown sex than other age groups. For more information, see the Update of jobholder characteristics in the historical [Methods review \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#methods-review\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-12-february-2022#methods-review).

Payroll jobs

In the month to 11 March 2023, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

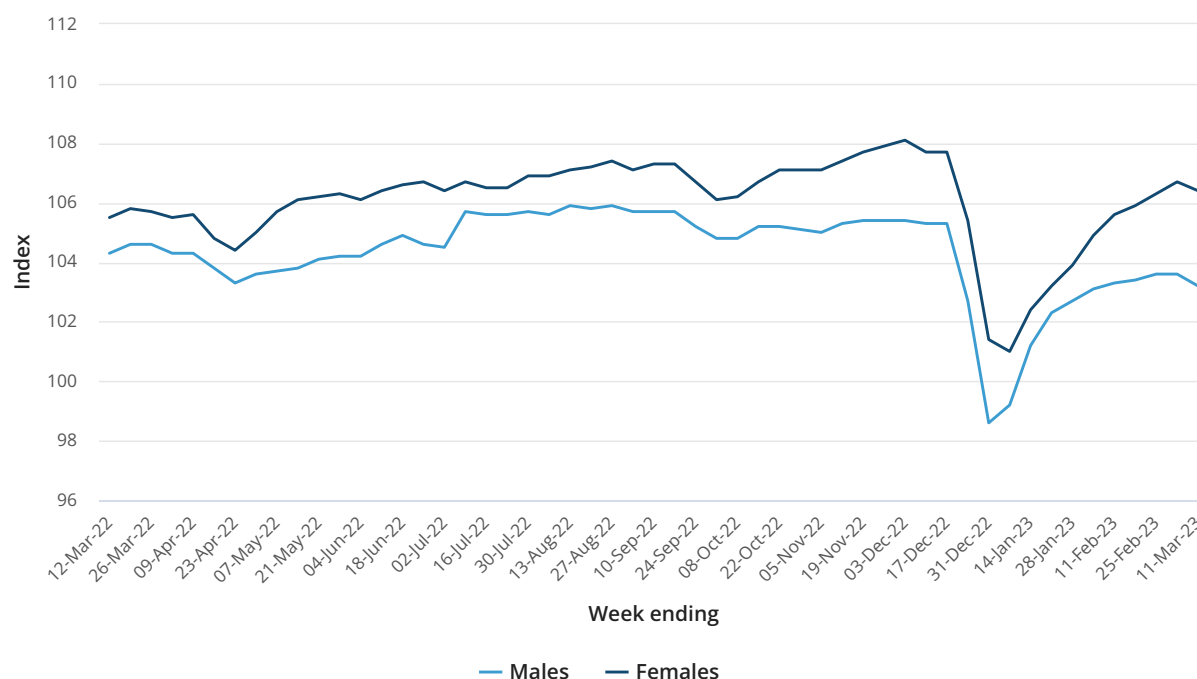
- worked by females, up 0.8%
- worked by persons aged 70 and over, up 3.9%

Percentage change in payroll jobs, by sex and age group (a)

		Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
Sex	Males	-0.4	-0.1	-1.0
	Females	0.1	0.8	0.9
Age group (years)	15-19	-1.6	-1.6	2.7
	20-29	0.1	0.8	3.3
	30-39	-0.1	0.5	3.4
	40-49	-0.1	0.5	2.8
	50-59	0.0	0.6	2.4
	60-69	1.0	1.6	6.0
	70 and over	2.0	3.9	9.6
All persons		0.0	0.6	3.5

a. Persons with 'unknown' sex and age are only included in the calculation of All persons indexes. For more information, see Inclusion of unknown characteristics in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-March-2023#how-data-are-processed\)](#).

Payroll jobs by sex (a)



a. Indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020.

Total wages

In the month to 11 March 2023, the largest changes in total wages paid were:

- worked by males, down 2.7%
- worked by persons aged 15-19, down 4.5%

Percentage change in payroll wages, by sex and age group (a)

		Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
Sex	Males	-2.4	-2.7	4.7
	Females	-1.2	-0.9	6.3
Age group (years)	15-19	-3.4	-4.5	14.3
	20-29	-2.2	-2.2	8.8
	30-39	-2.3	-2.3	7.1
	40-49	-1.9	-1.7	5.8
	50-59	-1.4	-1.2	5.6
	60-69	-0.5	-0.5	9.7
	70 and over	-2.4	-1.4	13.8
All persons		-1.8	-1.8	7.2

a. Persons with 'unknown' sex and age are only included in the calculation of All persons indexes. For more information, see Inclusion of unknown characteristics in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-March-2023#how-data-are-processed\)](#).

5 year age groups - Payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups by sex are presented as index values in Table 8 of the Data downloads.

Industry

As of this release, the graph included in this section will present monthly change in payroll jobs compared to the same period a year earlier.

Payroll jobs

In the month to 11 March 2023, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

- Education and training, up 5.8%
- Public administration and safety, up 1.6%

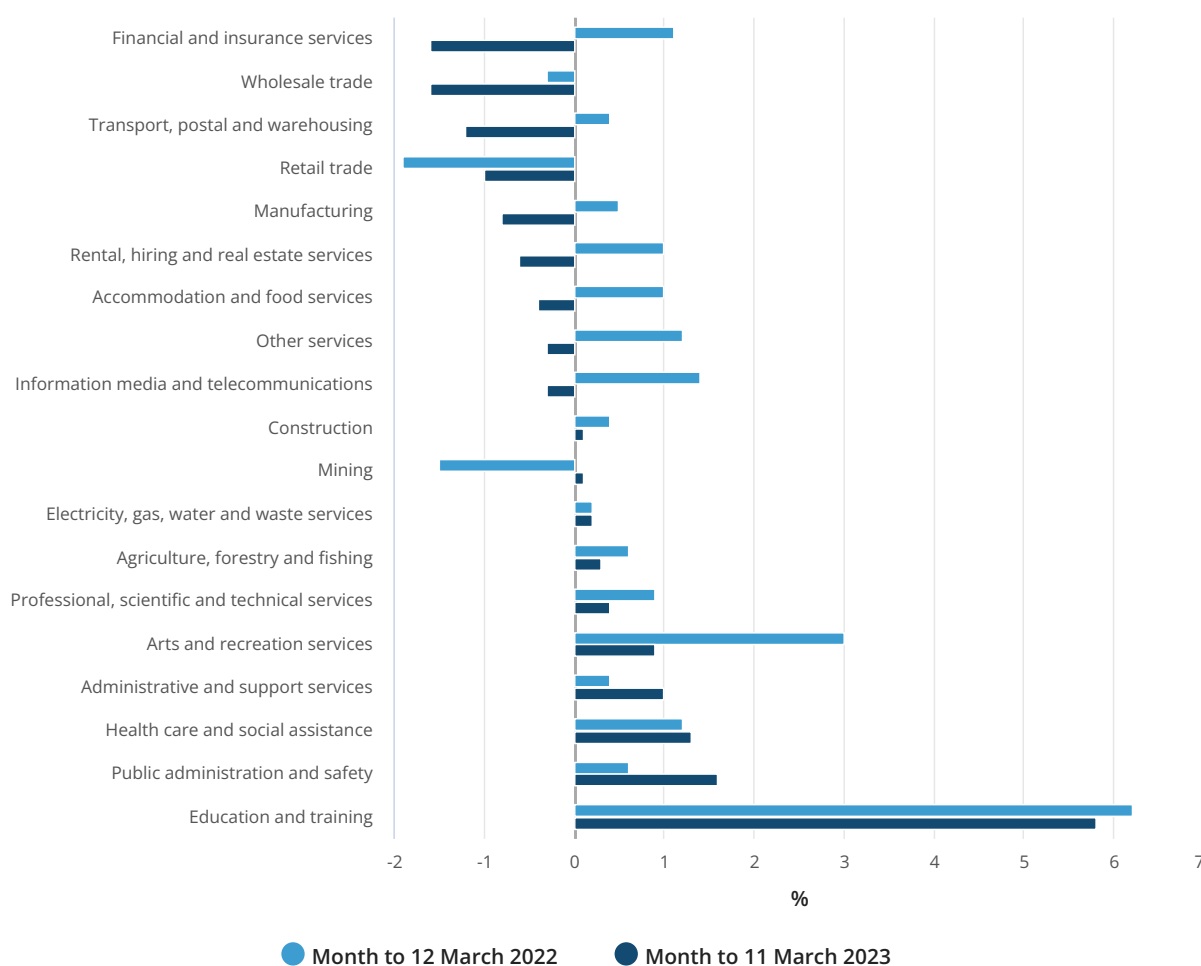
Percentage change in payroll jobs, by industry (a)

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-0.1	0.3	-5.0

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
Mining	0.1	0.1	10.9
Manufacturing	-0.7	-0.9	-0.7
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.1	0.2	4.7
Construction	-0.3	0.1	0.4
Wholesale trade	-1.3	-1.6	2.5
Retail trade	-0.8	-1.0	2.0
Accommodation and food services	-0.3	-0.4	-2.8
Transport, postal and warehousing	-0.8	-1.2	1.0
Information media and telecommunications	-0.6	-0.3	5.5
Financial and insurance services	-1.3	-1.6	2.2
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-0.4	-0.6	0.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.0	0.4	1.9
Administrative and support services	0.3	1.0	1.6
Public administration and safety	0.6	1.6	2.9
Education and training	2.6	5.8	4.9
Health care and social assistance	0.0	1.3	4.6
Arts and recreation services	0.1	0.9	8.1
Other services	-0.4	-0.3	-1.2
All industries	0.0	0.6	3.5

a. Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in either payroll jobs and wages or both. For more information, see Seasonality in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#data-variability-and-revisions\)](#).

Percentage change in payroll jobs by industry (a)



a. Industries ranked by percentage change in the latest month.

Total wages

In the month to 11 March 2023, the largest changes in total wages paid were:

- Financial and insurance services, down 7.1%
- Information media and telecommunications, down 6.8%

Percentage change in total wages, by industry (a)

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-2.0	-1.0	2.0
Mining	3.9	1.3	8.2
Manufacturing	1.0	1.1	2.9
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	-0.5	-0.6	3.0
Construction	-3.1	-4.5	6.4
Wholesale trade	-1.4	-0.9	3.5
Retail trade	-2.2	-4.0	10.8
Accommodation and food services	-1.1	-2.0	2.5
Transport, postal and warehousing	-3.8	-4.8	8.6
Information media and telecommunications	-7.9	-6.8	8.4
Financial and insurance services	-7.4	-7.1	-0.6
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-6.6	-6.7	0.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	-4.0	-3.2	8.4
Administrative and support services	-2.8	-2.9	5.7
Public administration and safety	0.6	0.7	5.8
Education and training	1.6	3.2	9.5
Health care and social assistance	-0.6	0.1	5.5
Arts and recreation services	-1.1	-0.9	10.6
Other services	-2.9	-2.7	6.0
All industries	-1.8	-1.8	7.2

a. Some industries experience pronounced seasonality in either payroll jobs and wages or both. For more information, see Seasonality in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#data-variability-and-revisions\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#data-variability-and-revisions).

Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision are presented as index values in Table 6 of the Data downloads. For more information on the industry classifications used in this release, see the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#glossary\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#glossary).

Private sector industry - Payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by private sector for selected industry divisions are presented as index values in Table 9 of the Data downloads. More information on the sector

classification can be found in Updating characteristics variables in [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#how-data-are-processed\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#how-data-are-processed) and the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#glossary\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#glossary).

Industry employment guide

To learn more about the different labour measures available, their purpose and how to use them, see our [Industry employment guide \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide).

Employment size

The ABS has previously advised caution in using the most recent periods in payroll jobs by employment size indexes, which are subject to higher than usual revisions over a longer period - particularly for small employers. These indexes are more heavily influenced by changes in reporting behaviour and reporting obligations than other indexes, affecting the interpretation of underlying change in labour market conditions. To provide more stability at the end point of these series, a month lag in the reference week is in place.

This release presents percentage change between the weeks ending 11 February 2023 and:

- 28 January 2023, for fortnight
- 14 January 2023, for month
- 12 February 2022, for year

In the month to 11 February 2023, the largest changes in payroll jobs were:

- 200 employees and over, up 3.2%

Percentage change in payroll jobs by employment size, for the week ending 11 February 2023 (a)

	Fortnight (%)	Month (%)	Year (%)
0-19 employees	0.5	2.7	3.7
20-199 employees	1.0	2.6	1.8
200 employees and over	1.8	3.2	5.0
All businesses	1.2	2.9	3.9

a. Records with 'unknown' employment size are only included in the calculation of All businesses indexes. For more information, see Revisions in sub-populations in [Data variability and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#data-variability-and-revisions\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#data-variability-and-revisions).

Distribution of characteristics

To aid in the interpretability of payroll job estimates, the following data download contains selected distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics by state and territory.

Records with 'unknown' characteristics have been excluded from the calculation of proportions. For more information on the source, impact and proportion of unknowns, see the Updating characteristic variables and Inclusion of unknown characteristics sections of [How data are processed \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#how-data-are-processed\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-11-march-2023#how-data-are-processed).

Table 20: Payroll jobs - characteristics distributions

Contains selected distributions of jobholder and employer characteristics.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[224.38 KB]

Data downloads

Table 4: Payroll jobs and wages indexes

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[6.68 MB]

Table 5: Sub-state - Payroll jobs indexes

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[539.37 KB]

Table 6: Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs indexes

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[132.52 KB]

Table 7: Employer characteristics - Payroll jobs index

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[66.84 KB]

Table 8: Jobholder characteristics - Payroll jobs index

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[79.62 KB]

Table 9: Sector - Payroll jobs index

↓ [Download XLSX](#)
[58.98 KB]

All data cubes

Previous articles

Previously published articles and information of interest are linked below:

- [Characteristics spotlight: 2022 \(/articles/characteristics-spotlight-2022\)](/articles/characteristics-spotlight-2022) provides selected insights of payroll jobs distributions
- [Regional spotlight on New South Wales and Queensland \(/articles/regional-spotlight-new-south-wales-and-queensland\)](/articles/regional-spotlight-new-south-wales-and-queensland) provides maps of regional payroll job changes in the month to mid-March 2022
- [Seasonality spotlight \(/articles/seasonality-spotlight-2021-year-end\)](/articles/seasonality-spotlight-2021-year-end) describes the most recent seasonal changes in the labour market
- [Distribution of jobholder and employer characteristics \(/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics\)](/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics) provides selected distributions to aid in interpreting estimates produced from STP data
- [A year of COVID-19 through payroll jobs and wages statistics \(/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics\)](/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics) reviews payroll jobs and wages in the year since Australia's 100th case of COVID-19
- [Year-end data variability \(/articles/year-end-data-variability\)](/articles/year-end-data-variability) provides some context on seasonality and seasonal variation
- [Secondary jobs \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-17-october-2020#secondary-jobs\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-17-october-2020#secondary-jobs) provides insight into multiple jobholders
- [Incorporating JobKeeper supported payments into Weekly payroll jobs and wages in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-30-may-2020#incorporating-jobkeeper-supported-back-payments-into-weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-in-australia\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-30-may-2020#incorporating-jobkeeper-supported-back-payments-into-weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-in-australia) describes how JobKeeper payments are included

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

Methodology

[Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia methodology, Week ending 11 March 2023](#)